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EXAMINER

VU, THANH T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2174

| SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE | MAIL DATE | DELIVERY MODE |
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PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/825,563

Applicant(s)

AREND ET AL.

Examiner

Thanh T. Vu

Art Unit

2174

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 April 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)            | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Messinger et al. ("Messinger", U.S. Pat. No. 7,000,178).

Per claim 1, Messinger teaches a user interface for guiding a user through a sequential task requiring user interaction in a plurality of ordered steps, the user interface including a window on a computer screen comprising:

a first pane displaying an active roadmap of two or more of the ordered steps and for indicating a selected one of the two or more sequential steps (fig. 13A; task list 43; col. 5, lines 55-67; col. 10, lines 8-12));

a second pane for providing a user interface pattern, the user interface pattern corresponding to the selected one of the two or more sequential steps (fig. 13A; sequential steps 400); and

a third pane for displaying one or more activities related to activities displayed in the user interface pattern (fig. 13A; display area 50).

Per claim 2, Messinger teaches the user interface of claim 1, wherein the user interface pattern is a form (fig. 13A; form 50; col. 10, lines 13-22 and lines 50-67).

Art Unit: 2174

Per claim 3, Messinger teaches the user interface of claim 2, wherein the second pane is also for receiving user input into the form (fig. 13A; form 50; col. 10, lines 13-22 and lines 50-67).

Per claim 4, Messinger teaches the user interface of claim 1, wherein the first pane is also for receiving a user election of one of the two or more sequential steps (col. 6, lines 20-24; col. 10, lines 7-12; *selection of a task provides provide two or more sequential steps*).

Per claim 5, Messinger teaches the user interface of claim 1, wherein the third pane is also for receiving a user selection of one of the one or more related actions (fig. 13A; col. 10, lines 13-22 and lines 50-67).

Per claim 6, Messinger teaches the user interface of claim 5, wherein the user interface initiates the associated secondary, related task upon receiving the user selection of one of the one or more related actions (col. 10, lines 23-33; *graphical overlay 401c*).

Per claim 7, Messinger teaches the user interface of claim 1, wherein the one or more related actions displayed is based on the indicated sequential step from the first pane (col. 6, lines 20-24; col. 10, lines 7-12; *selection of a task provides provide two or more sequential steps*).

Per claim 8, Messinger teaches the user interface of claim 1, further comprising a fourth pane displaying explanatory text (col. 7, lines 43-52).

Per claim 9, Messinger teaches the user interface of claim 8, wherein the explanatory text displayed is based on the indicated sequential step from the first pane (col. 7, lines 43-52; col. 10, lines 23-33).

Art Unit: 2174

Per claim 10, Messinger teaches the user interface of claim 1, further comprising a fifth pane displaying core functions (fig. 13C; user privilege 440; col. 12, lines 28-41; *the task list 43 are only displayed based on the level of user's privileges*).

Per claim 11, Messinger teaches the user interface of claim 10, wherein the core function displayed is based on the indicated sequential step from the first pane (col. 10, lines 1-12).

Per claim 12, Messinger teaches the user interface of claim 10, wherein one of the core functions is a command to proceed to the next sequential step (col. 10, lines 44-67).

Per claim 13, Messinger teaches the user interface of claim 10, wherein, upon receipt of the next sequential step command from the user in the fifth pane, the first pane indicates the next sequential step (col. 10, lines 44-67).

Claims 14-24 are rejected under the same rationale as claim 1-11 respectively.

### ***Inquiries***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thanh T. Vu whose telephone number is (571) 272-4073. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thur and every other Fri 7:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kristine L. Kincaid can be reached on (571) 272-4063. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2174

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

T. Vu

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